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In the Specification

Applicant presents replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 30 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 1: is a DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:98) identified in the Incyte LifeSeq™ database coding for a novel VEGF-X protein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 34 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 2: is an illustration of amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:99) of the nucleic acid sequence of Figure 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 17 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 6: is an illustration of the sequence (SEQ ID NO:100 and SEQ ID NO:101) obtained from the RACE experiment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 20 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 7: is an illustration of the nucleotide sequences (SEQ ID NO:102 AND SEQ ID NO:103) obtained from the search of LifeSeq™ database using the sequence in Figure 6.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 29 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 9: is an illustration of the entire coding sequence (SEQ ID NO:104) of VEGF-X.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 36 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 11: is an alignment of the sequence of Figure 10 with the sequences of VEGF-A to D (SEQ ID NOs:105-109).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 4 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 12: is an illustration of variant sequences (SEQ ID NOs:110-112) of the VEGF-X protein according to the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 16 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 14: depicts nucleic acid sequences (SEQ ID NOs:30-47) of 18 human EST clones obtained from a BLAST search of the LifeSeq™ database used to identify the full sequence encoding VEGF-X.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 22 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 15: depicts the nucleotide sequences (SEQ ID NOs:48-97) of 50 human EST clones obtained from the LifeSeq™ database.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 31 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 17: is a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:113 and SEQ ID NO:114) coding for a partial VEGF-X protein according to the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 35 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 18: is an illustration of a partial nucleotide sequence encoding (SEQ ID NO:115 and SEQ ID NO:116) VEGF-X protein according to the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 1 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 19: is an illustration of a DNA (SEQ ID NO:117) and polypeptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:118) used for mammalian cell expression of VEGF-X. The predicted VEGF-X signal sequence is in lower case letters. The C-terminal V5 epitope and His6 sequences are underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 9 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 20: is an illustration of a DNA (SEQ ID NO:119) and polypeptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:120) used for baculovirus/insect cell expression of VEGF-X. In the polypeptide sequence the signal sequence is shown in lower case. The N-terminal peptide tag added to the predicted mature VEGF-X sequence is underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 18 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 21: is an illustration of a DNA (SEQ ID NO:121) and polypeptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:122) used for *E. coli* expression of VEGF-X. The polypeptide sequences at the N- and C- termini derived from the MBP fusion and His6 tag respectively are underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 29 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 24: is an illustration of the DNA (SEQ ID NO:123) and polypeptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:124) used for *E. coli* expression of the VEGF-like domain of VEGF-X. Polypeptide sequences at the N-terminus of the protein derived from the vector are underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 8 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 26: illustrates a DNA (SEQ ID NO:125) and polypeptide sequence (SEQ ID NO:126) used for *E. coli* expression of the CUB-like domain of VEGF-X. The polypeptide sequence at the N-terminus derived from the vector-encoded signal and the introduced His6 tag are underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 1 with the amended paragraph/line as follows:

Figure 30: depicts the partial intron/exon structure of the VEGF-X gene. (A) Genomic DNA sequences of 2 exons (SEQ ID NO:127 and SEQ ID NO:128) determined by sequencing; exon sequence is in upper case, intron sequence is in lower case. (B) Shows the location of splice sites within the VEGF-X cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:129 and SEQ ID NO:130). The location of mRNA splicing events is indicated by vertical lines. The cryptic splice donor/acceptor site at nt. 998/999

(diagonal lines) gives rise to the splice variant forms of VEGF-X. No splice site information is given for the region shown in italics.

Please substitute the sequence listing filed herewith for the presently pending sequence listing.